

Officer, Regimental Operations Officer, Assistant Division Personnel Officer, Battalion Commander, MEF (Fwd) Operations Officer, Division Operations Officer, and Regimental Commander. In addition to these assignments, he completed two joint tours. The first of these was with U.S. Central Command serving in the J-3, Command Control, and then Joint Exercise Division. Later he served with the Joint Staff, Washington, D.C., in the Office of the Vice Chairman.

On 23 August 2002, Colonel Coleman assumed the duty as Chief of Staff, I Marine Expeditionary Force. He initially deployed to Kuwait and Iraq with Headquarters, I MEF in conjunction with Operation Iraqi Freedom from November 2002 to October 2003. He returned to Iraq with I MEF in March 2004 serving there until the MEF redeployed to the U.S. in March 2005.

Colonel Coleman is a graduate of Amphibious Warfare School, U.S. Army Command and Staff College, Armed Forces Staff College, U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies, and the U.S. Naval War College. He is a designated Joint Specialty Officer and has been awarded two masters of arts degrees, the first in Military Arts and Science, and the second in National Security and Strategic Studies. His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal (second award), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (second and third awards), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Colonel Coleman and his wife Teri were married in 1976 and have four children, Christina, Jay, Robby, and Lara.

On behalf of the people of the United States whom Colonel Coleman spent a career serving, I thank him for his service and commitment to the defense of our Nation.

STATEMENT HONORING JEREMY BONNER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeremy Bonner, an extraordinary young man whose dedication and achievements are to be commended. Jeremy Bonner recently graduated from A. Maceo Smith High School after 14 years of perfect attendance. This means that from the age of three, Jeremy never missed a day of school.

In a time when drop-out rates and truancy are on the rise, this is truly an exceptional achievement. The efforts and devotion of Jeremy Bonner and his mother, Joan Bonner, are to be celebrated.

In addition to his perfect attendance, I was pleased to learn of Jeremy's plans to join the military and pursue a career in public service. Both the military and America are fortunate to have the commitment of such a fine young man.

The recognition Jeremy is receiving is immensely well-deserved, and I know this is merely the first step of many bright years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of H.R. 5427, the Fiscal Year 2007 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, I was not present for rollcall 196, 197, 198, 199, 200 and 201. Had I been present, on rollcall 196, I would have voted "yea," on rollcall 197, I would have voted "nay," on rollcall 198, I would have voted "yea," on rollcall 199, I would have voted "yea," on rollcall 200, I would have voted "nay," and on rollcall 201, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO CAROL DAVIS

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements and hard work of Carol Davis. Carol is President and CEO of Manteca's Give Every Child a Chance Program. Give Every Child a Chance is committed to developing and maintaining a quality mentor program that will have a positive impact on the lives of children in our community. In 2005, the Association of California School Administrators, ACSA, had selected the Give Every Child a Chance Program as the year's Partners in Educational Excellence Award recipient.

Through Carol's leadership, Give Every Child a Chance has touched the lives of thousands of students throughout the San Joaquin area. The program provides innovative approaches to deal with the complex challenges facing public education. Give Every Child a Chance was nominated by Manteca Unified School District Superintendent, Dr. Cathy Nichols-Washer and was selected by a panel of school administrators throughout the State.

Carol's dedication to the future of our children is one that has not gone unnoticed, and I would like to wish her many more years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF LT. COL. JAMES MEGELLAS MEDAL OF HONOR BILL

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to honor a true American hero by awarding him the Medal of Honor. On January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge, Lt. James Megellas led his platoon of the 82nd Airborne Division on a surprise and devastating attack on a much larger advancing German force, killing and capturing a large number of the enemy and causing others to flee. In an act of fearless courage, Megellas singlehandedly destroyed an attacking German Mark V tank with two hand-held grenades. He then led the charge of his men and

seized Herresbach, Belgium, during this fierce action of the Battle of the Bulge. Due to his aggressive, fearless and superior leadership, Lt. James Megellas inspired his men to excel.

After serving 4 years as a rifle platoon leader during World War II, including many combat jumps into Italy and Holland, Megellas left the active Army and served for 16 years in the Army Reserve. He retired after 20 years of service as a lieutenant colonel.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Star Medals, two Bronze Star Medals, two Purple Hearts, and he is credited with being the 82nd Airborne Division's most decorated officer. During World War II, Gen. James Gavin selected one 82nd officer—Lt. James Megellas—to receive the Military Order of Wilhelm Orange Lanyard from the Dutch Minister of War on behalf of his division.

To this day, James Megellas continues to inspire. In February, 61 years since that momentous battle, James "Maggie" Megellas set foot on a battlefield with fellow 82nd Airborne Division soldiers, this time in a current theatre of war—Afghanistan. Megellas was impressed with what he saw of the paratroopers and their work. He listened to their stories of their past year of deployment and shared with them his own experiences during World War II.

Today, at 89 years old, James Megellas is currently in the Netherlands, to be decorated by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix in a surprise ceremony to once again receive the Military Order of Wilhelm Orange Lanyard for outstanding service.

I urge my colleagues to also recognize James "Maggie" Megellas by supporting this bill to authorize and request the President to award him the Medal of Honor for his acts of valor on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge. As time goes by, true heroes should never be forgotten, so please join me in honoring this outstanding American hero.

THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE OF THE STEM CELL RESEARCH BILL

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of stem cell research.

Last May, the House of Representatives narrowly passed H.R. 810, supporting federally funded embryonic stem cell research.

My vote, recorded in support of this bill, reflects my strong views on the potential for stem cell research to benefit society.

Stem cells can mature into nearly any type of cell, including nerve cells to repair damaged spines or heart cells to pump blood through the body.

The therapeutic possibilities of stem cells are endless.

It is my hope that the other body will work with us to support stem cell research.

Somewhere out there is a little girl who suffered a spinal injury and is unable to walk.

Therapy utilizing stem cells is her only hope.

How much longer will she and millions of others have to wait?